

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 2287, INFORMATION LONDON, BONN, BERLIN, MOSCOW
UNNUMBERED.

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I ACCOMPANIED DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GILPATRIC ON HIS
CALL LAST EVENING ON MINISTER OF DEFENSE MESSMER.

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LATTER EXTREMELY AFFABLE, INDICATING THAT HE ANTICIPATED
WITH MUCH PLEASURE HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO US. CONVERSATION,
WHICH LASTED ABOUT AN HOUR, COVERED BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS,
INCLUDING MESSMER'S HIGH OPINION OF GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER
STRAUSS, NECESSITY FOR EVER CLOSER FRANCO-GERMAN COOPERATION,
MESSMER'S DESIRE FOR JOINT EUROPEAN PRODUCTION ESPECIALLY OF
ARMS AND EQUIPMENT TO TIE GERMANS IN EVEN MORE FIRMLY, TRAINING
GERMAN FORCES IN FRANCE, BUILD UP ALLIED FORCES IN EUROPE, ETC.
IN CONNECTION WITH LATTER POINT MESSMER SAID HE FORESAW NO
DIFFICULTY IN RAISING PRESENT CEILING FOR US FORCES IN FRANCE.

WITH RESPECT TO BERLIN CRISIS MESSMER SAID THAT FRENCH COULD
NOT AGREE TO ANY "ARRANGEMENT" OVER BERLIN WHICH WOULD WEAKEN
GERMAN POSITION. DESTINIES OF THESE TWO COUNTRIES TOO CLOSELY
INTERTWINED; FRANCE'S DEFENSE DEPENDS ON GERMANY AS GERMANY'S
DEPENDS ON FRANCE.

MESSMER FEARED THAT WERE ANY "ARRANGEMENT" REACHED OVER BERLIN
THIS WOULD THREATEN ALLIANCE. HE REFERRED NOT ONLY TO NORTHERN
MEMBERS AND TURKEY, BUT EVEN ITALY.

SECRETARY GILPATRIC EXPLAINED THAT GOVERNMENT OF US SUPPORTED
BY PUBLIC OPINION WAS DETERMINED STAND FIRM WITH RESPECT TO
BERLIN, REALIZING THAT ANY WEAKENING OVER BERLIN WOULD ONLY

RESULT

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Department of State (EX-77-633)
Y. M. J. M. NO. 3, DATE 9/4/77

SECRET

-2- 2287, OCTOBER 27, 6 PM FROM PARIS

RESULT IN FURTHER DEMANDS LATER DATE, HENCE WISER TO MAKE STAND THIS JUNCTURE.

MR. MESSMER SAID THAT HE HAD EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH BRITISH DEFENSE MINISTER WATKINSON AND MR. HEATH, AND IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM HE GAINED IMPRESSION THAT BRITISH MUCH MORE CONCERNED WITH THEIR ENTRY COMMON MARKET THAN OVER BERLIN PROBLEM. MESSMER CAN UNDERSTAND THIS, FOR THIS IS MOST RADICAL CHANGE HISTORICALLY, NECESSITATING COMPLETE REORIENTATION OF BRITISH POINT OF VIEW INVOLVING NECESSITY OF BRITISH WORKING TOWARD SOLIDITY OF CONTINENT AS OPPOSED TO HISTORIC ROLE OF PLAYING ONE CONTINENTAL NATION AGAINST ANOTHER, ETC.

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